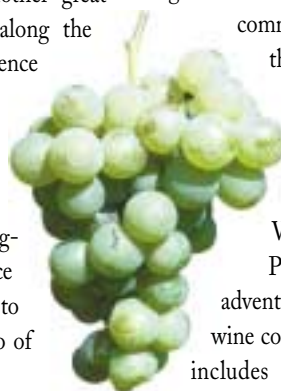


WINE COUNTRY

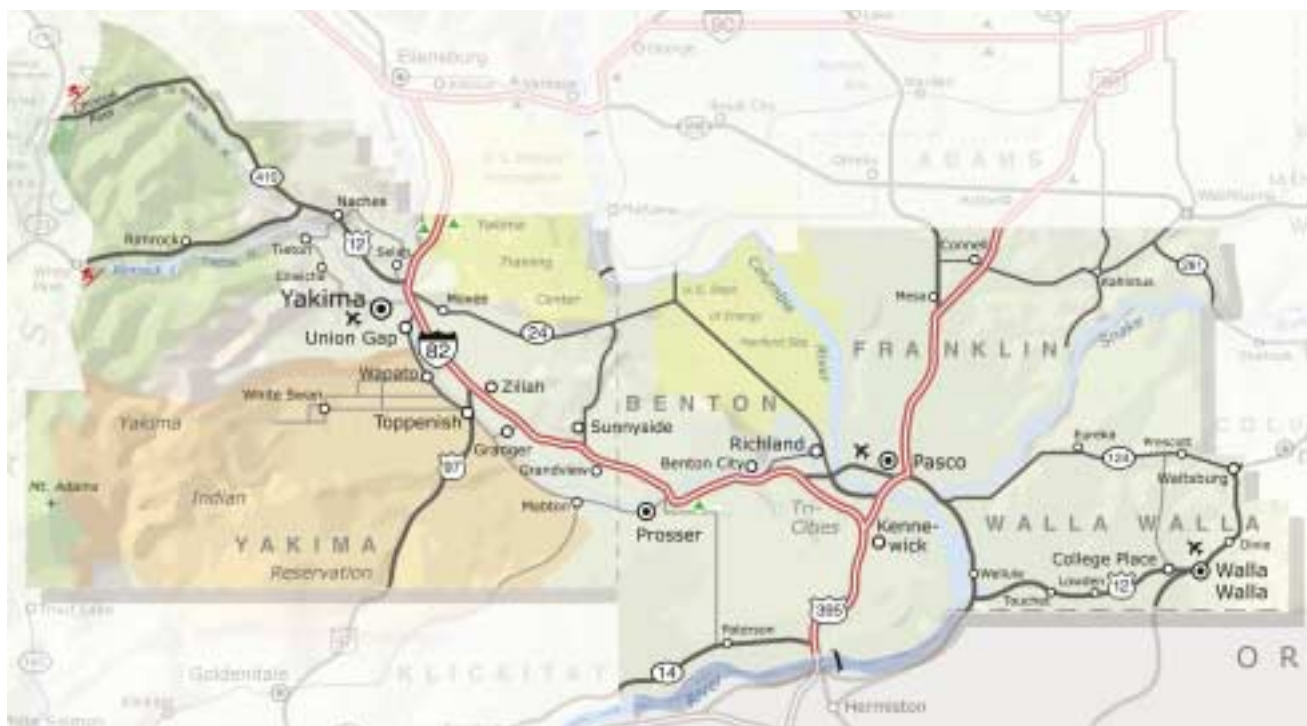
You can see the vineyards, visit the wineries, and taste and buy the products just following the roads that loop around Yakima, Benton, Walla Walla and Franklin counties. In the tasting rooms friendly faces, folks who love their work and are eager to teach you about the production and uses of wine, will greet you. Many have gift shops. But the bottled delights of the region are only a part of the fun to be had in the state's wine country. Yakima has several museums and an architecturally rich downtown. The city maintains a

Further east the Tri-Cities (Richland, Pasco, and Kennewick) are another great spot to river walk. You'll be along the mighty Columbia and its confluence with the Snake. Like many spots in the state, Lewis and Clark and their Corps of Discovery passed through here on their way to the Pacific. Riverfront lodgings, most with large full-service restaurants, offer great places to headquarter and explore this trio of boomtowns.

And even more to the east in Walla Walla (a place so wonderful they named it twice) you can settle into one of the most charming old towns in America. Walk the



Pop the cork on your spirit of adventure and head out to Washington's wine country. Like a great meal, the area includes a delightful encounter with Washington wine, but there's much more to it than that. You'll leave feeling quite full and thoroughly nurtured.



Yakima Valley

There's a reason why the Yakima Valley is so popular with visitors — there's lots of sunshine here, making this agricultural mecca as nurturing to humans as it is to the fruits and vegetables that thrive throughout the area. A short two-hour drive from Seattle, or three hours from Portland, the Yakima Valley seems to put in a special order each day for mesmerizing cloud formations and a brand of clean, clear air that's a bit addictive.

The valley, with its placid rolling hills and acres of orchards filled with orderly rows of the varied crops of the area, provides a delightful blend of sunbeam-blessed options. This is proud Washington Wine Country, home to more than 30 regional wineries (see wine tours, next page). Whether you're a white-water rafter, fly fisherman, hunter or a passionate wine or fruit aficionado, the Yakima Valley can deliver a fun-filled vacation or short get-away.

The largest community and county seat is Yakima. It's easily negotiated streets and picturesque historic section of downtown make exploring the city effortless and fun. Downtown's Yakima Valley Museum and

drive southwest of Union Gap (near White Swan) will lead to historic Fort Simcoe, a 1850s-era military installation established to keep peace between the Yakamas and early white settlers.

For the ultimate photo opportunity, travel to the historic Teapot station built in 1922 to mock the Teapot Dome Scandal of the Warren G. Harding administration. You can find the Teapot near Zillah between Yakima and Sunnyside on Interstate 82, which is also the starting point for the "Fruit Loop" tour, a beautiful agri-tour of the neighboring wineries and orchards (see p.68).

Visit Toppenish "Where the West

Still Lives!" Discover the city of murals and museums. This Yakama Reservation community features a picturesque collection of 62 murals with a variety of events to complement them. Catch a real glimpse of the old-west. Attend Mural-In-A-Day in June. You'll experience Indian traditions, pow wows, rodeos, music festivals, wildlife, camping, golfing, casino gaming, and shopping. Make plans today to relive the old-west.

Ten miles southeast of Toppenish, Granger is home to nearly a dozen dinosaurs — really! From the smallest replication of 4 1/2 feet and 1.5 tons to the largest at 13 1/2 feet and 3 tons, this collection of playground equipment includes baby brontosaurus and a T-rex.

Sunnyside hosts the Darigold Dairy Fair featuring a self-guided tour of a cheese plant as well as a variety of Washington foods, dairy trinkets, and good, fresh ice cream. The nearby town of Prosser also provides a grand palate of offerings to travelers. From their many world-class wineries to the ultimate cherry,

Prosser provides divine sustenance, never more evident than during the annual August Prosser Wine and Food Fair.

Year-round, the Yakima Valley can always promise adventure; whether it's serious antiquing, challenging outdoor recreation or partaking in the valley's renowned crops. There's something for everyone in this mystical valley!

Contact Information

Yakima Valley Visitors and Convention Bureau

509-575-3010 / 800-221-0751 / www.visityakima.com

Toppenish Chamber of Commerce

509-865-3262 / 800-569-3982 / www.toppenish.org

Don Wilson



Apple harvest, Yakima Valley



Apple Tree Golf Course in Yakima

Children's Underground Museum is a great spot to experience the natural and cultural history of the area. The museum touts the largest collection of wooden wagons west of the Mississippi, horse-drawn vehicles and Indian art and artifacts. Treat the family at the Museum's Soda Fountain, an authentic replica of a 1930s diner serving ice cream sundaes, sodas, and hot dogs.

Just east of the freeway, visit the Washington's Fruit Place Visitor Center to sample complimentary apple juice while gathering information about the growing process. Bring your bikes, roller blades or walking shoes and join local families and exercisers on the adjacent Yakima Greenway, a ten-mile paved path along the Yakima River.

As you enter the Lower Valley through Union Gap, you'll enter the Yakama Nation. Take note of the native burial ground and battlefield monument just after you pass through the gap on Highway 97. A 45-minute



ENJOY A WINE TOUR

A marvelous way to fully appreciate the area is to plan a **Wine Tour**, one of the main reasons tourists flock to the valley. Vineyards here are laden with grapes that are grown at the same latitude as the slightly more famous wine-producing regions of France. Consequently, the product, benefiting from mineral-rich soil and that ever-present sunshine, is becoming a particular point of pride in this region. Begin your tour at exit 40 off of Interstate 82 and continue on the Yakima Valley Highway.



recommended stops
Wine Country

A Touch of Europe - B & B and Fine Dining Establishment

220 N. 16th Ave., Yakima 98902

509-454-9775/888-438-7073 www.winesnw.com/toucheurope&b.htm

Destination Getaway- Popular historic (1889) Queen Anne Victorian home. B&B guests and non-guests can enjoy luxurious surroundings, private candle-light dining, and savor seasonal five-star eclectic cuisine by European chef, owner, cookbook author Erika Cenci.

Central Washington State Fair

1301 S. Fair Avenue, Yakima 98902

509-248-7160 www.fairfun.com

Visit our website for current listing of year-round activities including car and horse shows, sporting events plus the annual 10-day Fair in September.

Eaton Hill Winery

530 Gurley Road, Granger 98932

509-854-2220 www.washingtonwine.org

Award winning wines. Tasting hours 10-5 daily, except Thursdays. Winter hours 12-4 weekends; weekdays by appointment or chance. Easy R.V. access. Gary Rogers, Winemaker.

Tri-Cities

Some regard the Tri-Cities area as the most desirable and unique destination in Washington. What makes the area highly unusual is the marriage between three cities that collectively establishes what could be regarded as its own mini-kingdom; your potential vacation experiences are automatically multiplied because of this strong partnership.

Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland create the triumvirate 'Tri-Cities', a significant geographical configuration. The region's confluence of the Snake, Yakima and Columbia Rivers—combined with an average 300-days of sunshine each year—brings considerable choices for water sports. Sailing, boating, water or jet skiing, fishing, and swimming are all prime activities here.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE IS EVERYWHERE

Cloudless days are a standing invitation to enjoy the great outdoors. Golfers from throughout the region gather to enjoy the four driving ranges and ten beautiful golf courses. Bicyclists hum happily along the over 22 miles of well-maintained riverfront paths, and off-road vehicle enthusiasts have a hey day with the varied and challenging terrain.

The Tri-Cities is a vital resting and feeding area for migratory waterfowl on the Pacific flyway, with eight National Wildlife Refuges and Reserves in the area. Bring your camera and binoculars and keep silent company with the

many species of songbirds. Be alert also for the occasional sightings of beaver, river otter, mule deer and other riparian wildlife.

The Hanford Reach National Monument is regarded as the pre-eminent wildlife viewing area, with the only free-flowing, non-tidal stretch of the Columbia River in the U.S. This 51-mile stretch of river flows through cloud white bluffs, taupe colored dunes and dramatic desert plateaus. The combination of geological riches, encompassing the river, shoreline, Hanford Dunes and Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, is the site of scientific and historic treasures. The best viewing of The Reach is on a commercial boat tour, which provides a perfect, non-intrusive view of this federally protected, non-vehicle area.

A nice, relaxing way to experience the area's natural beauty is to walk or ride your bike along the Sacagawea Heritage Trail, 22-miles of lovely riverfront paths, that threads between Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland.

PERFECT CONDITIONS FOR WINE GROWING

The combination of long summer days and cool, crisp evenings is ideal for the Columbia Valley's premium wine grapes, and within a 50-

mile radius there are 53 excellent wineries. Situated at the same latitude as the great Burgundy and Bordeaux regions of France — graced with rich volcanic soil and that ever-present sunshine — the Columbia Valley has had

©2002 John Marshall



Tri-Cities

extraordinary success with their wineries. Washington state's oldest winery is here, as is its largest. Plan to take a Winery Tour and sample what is becoming an internationally acclaimed, Washington grown product. Contact the local visitors' Bureau at 509-735-8486 or 1-800-254-5824 for wine tours and related events.

EVENTS AND ADVENTURES

No matter what time of year you plan to visit, there's always a popular event guaranteed to provide plenty of fun-filled options. From the quiet subtleties of the Tri-Cities Wine Festival or the Renaissance Fair to the raw power of the Benton County Rodeo, there are entertainment niches for every taste and interest. A predominant draw is the Columbia Cup Hydroplane Races, one of only six unlimited hydroplane competitions in the world.

CELEBRATE THE REGION'S HISTORY AND DIVERSITY

The Tri-Cities celebrates today's vibrancy, but they also value their unique place in history. Sacajawea State Park & Interpretive Center, which marks "the forks" or confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers where Lewis & Clark set up camp in October 1805, provides insightful details of the Corps of Discovery journey as it ventured through this region.

Jason Koci



Visit www.VisitTri-Cities.com for more regional information on the Lewis & Clark expedition. (See also Lewis & Clark in Washington, page 84.)

From the geologic, Indian and pioneer history to current recreational, cultural and educational opportunities, the Tri-Cities has an astounding array of things for you to do and places to go. It is the unusual coalition of three cities, situated on three rivers, with all their resources and benefits, that provides visitors with a vast network of exciting vacation agendas.

Contact Information

Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau
1-800-254-5825 / www.VisitTri-Cities.com

don't miss

The three rivers that form this unique region also generate mighty hydroelectric power and solar energy. The Columbia River Exhibition of History, Science & Technology Museum and the Energy Northwest's Visitor Center provide visitors with a strong overview and extensive information about these powerful resources.

recommended stops | Wine Country

Barnard Griffin Winery

878 Tulip Lane, Richland 99352
509-627-0266 www.barnardgriffin.com

Founded in 1983 by veteran winemaker Rob Griffin & his wife Deborah Barnard. Visit the winery & tasting room, open 10-6 daily (call for winter hours). Taste many of the wines, some only available at the winery, shop for unique gift & food items. Enjoy a picnic on the grounds!

Columbia Crest Winery

Highway 221, Columbia Crest Dr., Paterson 99345
509-875-2061/888-309-WINE

www.columbia-crest.com

Columbia Crest is the chief producer of premium wine in Washington state. Tours and tasting are available daily from 10:00am to 4:30pm.

Columbia River Journeys

1229 Columbia Park Trail, Richland 99352
509-734-9941/888-486-9119

www.columbiariverjourneys.com

Jet boat tours of the scenic and historic Hanford Reach National Monument. View white pelicans, coyotes, deer and more. Other tours available. Groups welcome.

Gordon Brothers Cellars

5960 Burden Blvd, Pasco 99301

509-547-6331 www.gordonwines.com

Wine is the only product that retains a sense of place. Come sample our award-winning wines at our beautiful, vineyard-nestled winery. 10-5 Daily.

Walla Walla

The communities of Walla Walla County are rich in history, natural resources, and inherent beauty. There are four distinct seasons here, plenty of sunshine, and a lively checklist of things to do. If outdoor recreation is your thing, whether you prefer hunting, hiking, fishing golfing, or biking — virtually any imaginable activity is available near here.

MAIN STREET, U.S.A.

If you were a location scout for a movie that needed the perfect Main Street, you'd be well advised to visit Walla Walla. The city's renovated entry is a point of pride for residents and a pure delight for visitors, and it's just the spot to capture hometown charm. With the architecturally significant and historic structures returned to their original glory, the downtown creates a perfect marriage of old and new.

Walla Walla's history is preserved and celebrated at two local museums. Fort Walla Walla Museum reminds visitors of the town's beginnings as a mid-19th century military reservation with 16 original and replica buildings creating a pioneer village. Lewis and Clark took an overland shortcut through Walla Walla County on their return trip from the Pacific coast, and the museum has a life-sized diorama depicting those events of 1806.

The Whitman Mission National Historic Site, just seven miles west of Walla Walla on Highway 12, references the mission built in 1836 by Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and details the relationship with the Cayuse

tribe that led to their unfortunate demise. Each weekend there are cultural demonstrations replicating pioneer and Cayuse life in the 1840s.

A Downtown Walla Walla Walking Tour highlights the area's notable historic buildings including the beautifully restored Marcus Whitman Hotel (1928), Liberty Theatre (1917), and the Dacres Hotel (1899) with its intriguing façade, arched windows and brickwork. One of the Northwest's outstanding Victorian structures, the 1880s Kirkman House is open to view from April 1 through November 30.

VINEYARDS ABOUND

The mixture of climate and rich volcanic soil has created an ideal environment for growing wine grapes — a fact that has not escaped the attention of some of the state's premier winemakers. As a result, Walla Walla Valley wines consistently achieve national and international acclaim. Many of the area's outstanding wineries are open for tasting and tours and frequently host special wine-tasting events and festivities to toast the Valley's proud heritage.

CELEBRATE THE ARTS

The arts are treasured here, from the foundry that casts sculptor's artistry into products, to a wide selection of music provided at the Summer Sounds on the Plaza downtown. There's a well-regarded symphony and dance and



A stunning Walla Walla vineyard

theatre productions through the Walla Walla Little Theatre. Campus productions can be enjoyed at any of the three local colleges, where you can also take advantage of the public art viewing opportunities featuring outdoor sculptures and several galleries.

REGIONAL FESTIVALS

Because of the almost year-round sunshine, festivals have a perfect environment in which to thrive. The Woodstock Music Festival, last weekend in June, spotlights local musicians and July's Walla Walla Sweet Onion Blues Fest promotes local blues bands, food and crafts. And, of course the most colorful festival, the annual Balloon Stampede is held every May.

The adjacent towns of Milton-Freewater and Waitsburg provide the perfect afternoon venture. Waitsburg, home to the Bruce Memorial Museum, is the site of the Pioneer Fall Festival with arts and crafts of the 1800s, and the end of October celebrates the almost mystical fall colors here with the four-day Fall Festival of Foliage and Feathers. There are over 310 bird species in the area and the festival

includes a variety of wildlife related activities, with emphasis on identification of Walla Walla Valley birds.

Ten miles south of Walla Walla, Milton-Freewater is site of the Frazier Farmstead Museum, with a turn-of-the-century home complete with many original furnishings.

WALLA WALLA DELIVERS

Regardless of the variety of interests in your family, Walla Walla will deliver a rewarding vacation experience. Rich in history, art, culture and a tremendous variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, it is a place you'll want to put on your list of "must dos" for the upcoming year. From morning till evening, under sunny skies and gentle nights, the communities of Walla Walla County await and welcome you. Prepare to be fully entertained.

Contact Information

Tourism Walla Walla
509-525-0850 / 1-877-WWVISIT
www.wallawalla.org

don't miss...

WALLA WALLA SWEET ONIONS

If you haven't tasted a Walla Walla sweet onion, you're missing a significant life experience, and where better to incorporate this yearly gift of gold than in its namesake city? Available mid-June through mid-August, these treats promise an unimaginable addiction. Your first taste will lead to a firmly established yearly ritual.



recommended stops
Wine Country

Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center

Six West Rose Street, Walla Walla 99362
509-525-2200/866-826-9422

www.marcuswhitmanhotel.com

The newly restored, historic Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center offers a return to luxury and elegance in the heart of Washington wine country.

ZillahFruit Loop

GATEWAY TO WINE AND FRUIT COUNTRY

What do ice age floods, a beautiful girl, an oil scandal, sun-drenched desert and zucchini have in common?

They all play a part in the story of Zillah. Nestled on the bluffs of a fertile, prehistoric flood plain amid vineyards and orchards that rise above the Yakima River, the city of Zillah provides a refreshing stop for visitors traveling through the Yakima Valley. In Zillah, you'll enjoy a taste of the good life with the many wineries, orchards, and fields of produce that abound in this agricultural community.

At the turn-of-the-century, a beautiful daughter of a railroad official inspired Zillah's name. The town was then transformed by intricate irrigation canals from a parched, sagebrush-filled desert into lush, sun-drenched fields of sweet fruit and produce.

Today, this community has become a 'Gateway to Wine and Fruit Country'.

There are eight wineries on Zillah's Fruit Loop Tour, a driving tour that makes a 10-mile loop around the city. The Loop guides visitors through panoramic views of the valley and Mount Adams, sweeping vistas of vineyards, orchards and rolling fields.

These lands bestow a cornucopia of crops, from asparagus to zucchini, all ready for appreciative diners who know the value of fresh produce. Jones Farms is representative of Zillah's bounty, where you can fill your trunk with late summer produce like the "bodacious" brand of succulent, sweet corn.

The Fruit Loop tour wears many faces throughout the year. In the spring, the fruit trees dominate the landscape, bursting with papery, pastel blossoms. In summer, the rolling green fields are busy with farm workers, a stark contrast with the surrounding ridges that remain parched, brown, and untouched by irrigation. In the fall, visitors are invigorated by the brilliant colors of autumn leaves and the sweet smell of grapes just before harvest.

The Loop, with its well-maintained country roads, is also a popular bicycle route filled with fun and unique historic landmarks. The Teapot

Dome gas station, a building that looks just like a giant-sized teapot, is on the National Historic Register.

The Teapot was built by Jack Ainsworth to satirize the 1920s

Teapot Dome Scandal of the Warren

G. Harding administration. It is one of the

oldest functioning gas stations in the United States and well worth the stop for a fill-up and very unique photo opportunity.

Other points of interest for cyclists or those touring with a vehicle is the town's restored church built in 1910, or the refurbished Perham Fruit warehouse that now operates as a furniture store.

While browsing through Zillah's collection of gift and antique shops, take a dining break at one of the city's many restaurants. You'll find a variety of foods, including popular prime rib, seafood, home-style and an authentic Mexican bakery. Don't miss the chance to test the locally famous Moe burger!

There are a variety of events throughout the year in Zillah that visitors enjoy. Two popular family events are Community Day and It's Not-Just-A-Farmers-Market. Zillah Community Day in May is an annual celebration that has continued for over 50 years. Begin with a breakfast in the park and the first of the season's real hometown parade. Community Day's main feature is an Antique Show, popular with serious regional browsers. Come September, try Not-Just-A-Farmers market with over 100 vendors that tempt visitors with fresh produce, entertainment, arts, crafts and food vendors, and a bake-off contest.

Local wineries participate in several events throughout the year with wine tasting, sustenance, and entertainment. Chocolate and Red Wine is the supreme event in February. In April, revel in the Spring Barrel tasting, and come November, recover from Thanksgiving at Thanksgiving in Wine Country.

With so much to do and see, Zillah is more than the 'Gateway to Wine and Fruit Country'. It's a great community with a big heart, contented residents happy to share their community, and a wonderful place to visit. Call the Zillah Chamber of Commerce at 509-829-5055 for more travel planning information.

don't miss...

Community Day & Antique Show

Second Saturday in May

Not-Just-A-Farmers-Market

Saturday following Labor Day

Red Wine & Chocolate

President's Day weekend

Spring Barrel Tasting

Last full weekend in April

Thanksgiving in Wine Country

Fri., Sat., Sun. following Thanksgiving